

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An optical head device includes a light source for emitting light; a collection optical system for collecting the light emitted by the light source to an information memory medium including tracks having prescribed grooves; a light detector having a plurality of detection areas for receiving the light reflected by the information memory medium and outputting a signal in accordance with a light amount of the light received; a tracking error signal generator for receiving the signals output from the light detector and generating a tracking error signal based on the signals; and a light division element for dividing a reflected light reflected by the information memory medium. A relationship  $\lambda / (NA \cdot Tp) \geq 1$  is satisfied where  $\lambda$  is the wavelength of the light emitted from the light source, NA is the numerical aperture of the collection optical system, and Tp is the distance from a center of the track in the information memory medium to a center of the adjacent track; and the tracking error signal generator generates a tracking error signal from an area except for an overlapping area of the reflected light, the overlapping area being an area of overlapping two circles each having a radius of 1 and having a center of one circle being apart from a center of the reflected light beam at a distance of  $\lambda / (NA \cdot 2Tp)$  in a direction orthogonal to the track from a center of a cross-section of the reflected light, when the cross-section of the reflected light on the light division element in a circle having a radius of 1.